

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Oblon on 11/16/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

- Claims 88, 89 and 101-106 are cancelled.
- Claim 91 has been amended to read:

91. A networked electronic ordnance system, comprising:

a bus controller connected to a network for (1) transmitting onto the network a digital arming ~~command~~ using at least one unique identifier, (2) altering an analog condition of the network to correspond to a firing command, and (3) transmitting onto the network a digital firing command using at least one unique identifier ~~the digital arming command causes activation energy to charge one or more of a plurality of pyrotechnic devices connected by the network to the bus controller; and~~
at least one ~~of the plurality of the pyrotechnic devices including:~~

a bus interface for sensing the analog condition of the network,

a capacitor for storing ~~the~~ activation energy,

an initiator, and

a logic device having a unique identifier that stores ~~the~~ activation energy in the capacitor upon receiving ~~the~~ digital arming command that includes the unique identifier of its logic device, and, once armed, releases the stored activation energy from the capacitor into the initiator upon (1) detecting that ~~the~~ digital firing command is received that includes its unique

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identifier, and (2) determining that the bus interface senses that the analog condition of the network corresponds to the received firing command.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The most relevant prior art reference, US 6584907 issued to Boucher discloses a networked electronic ordnance system as claimed with the exception of the claim limitation requiring a bus controller that "alters an analog condition of the network to correspond to a firing command" and a pyrotechnic device including a bus interface and logic device, the logic device "determining that the bus interface senses that the analog condition of the network corresponds to the received firing command." In applicant's invention, when a digital arming command is received, activation energy is caused to travel over the network in order to charge a capacitor located in a pyrotechnic device (specification: pg. 16, ll. 8-16). Subsequent to this step, if it is desired to detonate one of the pyrotechnic devices, the bus controller issues a digital firing signal and "alters an analog condition of the network to a firing condition" (specification: pg. 18, line 17 to pg. 19, line 11). Before firing, a logic device located within one of the pyrotechnic devices determines whether a bus interface (also located within the pyrotechnic device) has sensed an analog condition corresponding to a firing command. Boucher discloses a bus controller, network and pyrotechnic device as claimed. However, in Boucher, there is no additional altering of an analog condition of the network to correspond to a firing command. Boucher's device appears only to provide an initial release of activation energy across the network to charge the pyrotechnic devices without a subsequent change in the analog condition of the bus before firing.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Troy Chambers whose telephone number is 571-272-6874. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 a.m. - 4 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael J. Carone can be reached on 571-272-6873. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Troy Chambers
Primary Examiner
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TC
11/17/2009